

PIONEER

2015 *Alumnus of the Year*

Dr. Jerry C. White

JULY 2015



Dr. Jerry C. White is senior pastor of Casey Creek Baptist Church in his hometown of Chesnee, South Carolina, and has been missions instructor at Fruitland Bible College since 1982.

White accepted God's call to ministry at the age of 13 and preached his first sermon the same year. Since the age of 20, he has pastored small, medium, and large churches, and has consistently led those churches to be active in evangelism and missions.

White has preached over 300 revivals in 16 states and 3 foreign countries. He has also held numerous positions in South Carolina and Southern Baptist life, including trustee at Anderson University. He is presently serving his third term as a trustee for Lifeway Christian Resources.

He was president of the South Carolina Pastor's Conference in 2003 and president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention in 2005.

In his younger days, White was involved in martial arts

with his sons and earned a second-degree black belt. In 1993, he was inducted into the World Martial Arts Hall of Fame.

White earned his Bachelor of Arts from Gardner Webb University in 1974, his Master of Education in Religion from Luther Rice Seminary in 1978, and his Doctor of Ministry from Luther Rice Seminary in 1980. He has also studied at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Erskine Seminary, Moody Bible Institute, Emmaus Bible School, Dallas Bible College, and Liberty University.

White married his high school sweetheart, Janet, over 42 years ago. They have two sons, Thomas and Todd. Thomas is the current president of Cedarville University and is married to Joy. They have two children, Rachel and Samuel. Todd is the Supervisor of Mechanics at Span America, and he is married to Brittney. They have one child, Jarrod.

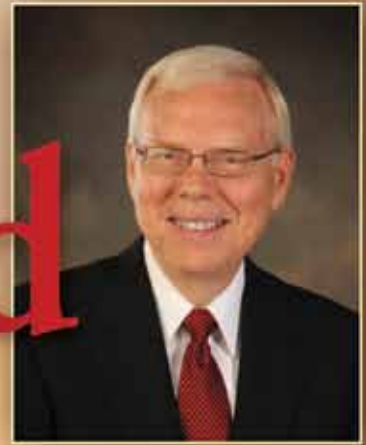
Congratulations Dr. White, on being named the Luther Rice Alumnus of the Year and for your dedicated service to God and man these many years.



INSIDE THIS EDITION, YOU'LL FIND...

- ❖ A Personal Word from Dr. Flanagan **PAGE 2**
- ❖ Project Focus **PAGE 4**
- ❖ 2015 Graduation Report **PAGE 6 & 7**
- ❖ And much more!

A Personal Word



from DR. FLANAGAN

Several years ago, the speaker for the Luther Rice graduation banquet had to cancel at the last minute. So in his place, students stood up to share stories about how much receiving a biblical education meant to them. Now, this time of praise has become an honored tradition at the banquet.

There were 250 students that graduated with degrees from Luther Rice this year, and many of them were at the banquet, held on May 14 at First Baptist Church Snellville. Again, we repeatedly heard students express gratitude for an education based on God's inerrant Word. We also heard how God used relationships with faculty and staff to make a difference in the students' lives.

Those of us serving at Luther Rice were pleased to hear that our programs have remained steadfast upon their biblical bases, and we felt affirmed that our work does not return void.

Thanks to many faithful and generous givers, our

new graduates are now an extended part of the Luther Rice family, going forth around the world, proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ across 37 states and 5 foreign countries.

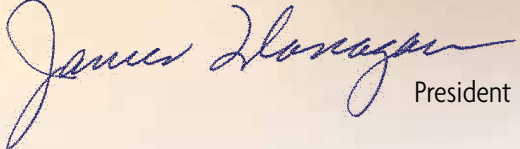
We want to invite you to take advantage of a new online biblical training program we developed for the public called Project FOCUS. The courses were designed with the layperson in mind and are a way for everyone to have access to sound biblical training from seasoned seminary

professors. Each course is focused on a central theme, such as "How to Share Your Faith." There are 4-6 video sessions per course, each no longer than 30 minutes. You can find more details and register at the website www.ProjectFocus.education.

We thank God for the opportunity to be a part of a college and seminary that upholds the standard of God's Word and has a passion to reach the world for the cause of Christ.

Project 
FOCUS

Free Online Christian University Series


President

Alumnus Named President of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

Timmy Blair Sr. was elected, without opposition, as president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) for 2015 at the annual meeting in Greensboro on November 11, 2014.



Blair has served as pastor of Piney Grove Chapel Baptist Church in Angier since 1987, except for a one-year pastorate in South Carolina. Other churches he has served include Bolton Baptist in Bolton and Salem Baptist in Aynor, South Carolina. Blair led Piney Grove Chapel to have the highest number of baptisms in the Little River Association for a number of years and was recognized by the BSCNC in 2000 for being in the top ten for baptisms in its size category.

Blair has previously served the BSCNC on the board of directors and the Committee on Committees. He was also chairman of the Program, Place, and Preacher Committee in 2009.

After attending Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute, Blair received his undergraduate degree and Master of Divinity from Luther Rice Seminary. He and his wife Wendy have two married sons and two grandchildren.

Blair wrote a bi-weekly newspaper column, "Timeless Truths," for The Angier Independent for years, and is also heard weekly on the radio. He has preached numerous revivals in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia, as well as led mission trips to South Carolina, West Virginia, New Mexico, South Dakota, and South Africa.

Blair did not grow up in a church-going family, but a high school friend, Kenn Hucks, witnessed to Blair. Hucks was scheduled to sing with his youth choir in a revival service and invited 16-year-old Blair to attend the program. "I agreed to go, but I slipped into the back pew of that revival service," he said. "I planned to slip out and go about my life, but that night God spoke to my heart, the Holy Spirit convicted me. I walked the aisle and gave my life to Jesus Christ." At age 17 he answered the call to preach and began filling in as a lay-preacher wherever he was needed.

Blair is amazed at the course his life has taken—from living in a broken home, to pastoring the same church for 26 years, and now to serving as the president of the BSCNC. "To look at my life, from where I've come to where I am, it's just a work of God's grace," Blair said. "I am so thankful and humbled to serve Him and to be saved. Anything beyond that—whether it's pastoring or serving the convention—it's just icing on the cake."

His most fulfilling pastoral work is to preach the gospel and minister to people. "What you do Monday through Saturday to touch the people—being there with the people, whether they are hurting or rejoicing—I've always felt like that gave me the platform for what I do on Sunday. I love to be with my people."

Congratulations Pastor Blair on your election as president, and on the many years of service for God.



Project FOCUS

Sharpen Your Biblical Focus

Free Online Biblical Training

All the joy of learning with none of the pressures of homework or tests.

- Are you interested in attending a Christian College or Seminary and want to give it a “test drive” first?
- Maybe you are a Sunday School teacher or small group facilitator and need sound, fresh material for your group?
- If College or Seminary is not in your future, but you are hungry for solid biblical teaching... **Project FOCUS!**

Produced in conjunction with Luther Rice College and Seminary, the free Project FOCUS video courses consist of short non-credit sessions delivered by Christian college professors. Each course is focused on a central theme, such as “How to Share Your Faith”. There are 4-6 video sessions per course, each no longer than 30 minutes.

Downloadable study notes, consisting of questions that can be used in a small group or individually, help you to apply the video content to everyday life.

Review the Available Courses and Register at **www.ProjectFocus.education**

More Courses Are Now In Production  ***It's Free with No Strings Attached***

The Power of Living Under

Grace



By Dr. Mark Owens,

Assistant Professor of New Testament, Bachelor Program Coordinator

What does it mean to be “under grace” in Romans 6:14–15? For some Christians today, the phrase may mean that there are certain Old Testament commandments that are no longer applicable for new covenant believers. For other Christians, to be under grace may serve as a rationalization for sinful behavior or as a response to a fellow believer who is confronting them about questionable behavior. They might say, “Don’t judge me; I’m under grace. While the first interpretation of this phrase is certainly better than the other two, it still misses Paul’s main point. To properly understand the phrase “under grace,” one must consider Paul’s portrait of grace in Romans 5:20–21 and the relationship between sin and grace in Romans 6:14–15.

First of all, Paul is saying that to be under grace is to conquer the power of sin by living under the power of grace. It is critical to recognize that Paul personifies grace in Romans 5:20–21 as a powerful reality that affects the lives of believers. Paul thus uses the noun grace here in a rather unconventional way. In Romans 5:20, grace is portrayed as an object that is able to increase: “But where sin increased, grace increased all the more.” Perhaps even more importantly, grace is said to “reign” in v. 21. The verb reign suggests that the grace Paul is describing in this passage is a concrete entity that exercises power and establishes a sphere of influence and dominion over believers.

Second, Paul argues to be under grace involves believers conquering the power of sin through the power of the Holy Spirit. Scholars generally recognize that the noun law in v. 15 refers to the old covenant closely associated with the Mosaic Law, while the noun grace is a subtle reference

to the new covenant established through Jesus’ sacrificial death. However, one must consider that Paul is addressing a specific aspect of the new covenant—its transforming power. Paul’s comments here on the new covenant are likely grounded in Ezekiel’s description of the new covenant, especially Ezekiel 36:25–27. Ezekiel’s comments about the Holy Spirit are especially important. In particular, Ezekiel suggests that the Spirit will “move you to follow my decrees and be careful to follow my laws” (v. 27). Paul makes a similar claim about the Spirit in Galatians 5:16, where he states, “live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature” (see also Romans 8:1–14). The Holy Spirit thus plays an important role in transforming new covenant believers, and it is likely this role that Paul is evoking in Romans 6:14–15.

Third, Romans 6:14–15 teaches us that divine grace is a critical component within the salvation process and the sanctification process. We see in Romans 6:14–15 that divine grace is clearly associated with the fight against sin. Paul’s comments here thus address a tendency within today’s Church to link God’s grace solely with the beginning of the Christian life (i.e., conversion), rather than the entirety of the Christian life. What we learn from Romans 6:14–15 is that we need God to change us just as much as we need Him to save us.

Ultimately, Paul’s statements in Romans 6:14–15 teach us that living under grace is to recognize that self-effort and legalism (to a degree, even the spiritual disciplines) will not lead to the personal transformation that God intends for us. Instead, we must look upward and lean hard on the power that God is able to provide!

250 Graduates Equipped

On May 15, Luther Rice graduates assembled for the 53rd annual commencement ceremony in the main worship center at First Baptist Church Atlanta. The class of 2015 consisted of 250 students from 37 different states and 5 foreign countries, including Jamaica, Chile, Finland, and Canada. Many of them traveled to Atlanta to participate in the graduation week festivities. All the graduates, along with their families and supporters, deserve sincere congratulations for their accomplishment.

Dr. Kerwin Lee, senior pastor of Berean Christian Church, spoke at the commencement. In

1996, Lee founded Berean Christian Church, which has grown from 200 to more than 7,000 members. Lee is also the founder of A Word for the Times ministries and the author of “Winning the Battle Over Negative Emotions,” his first book. He is passionate and committed to helping others understand the Word of God in practical, everyday language, and his television and Internet ministry reaches people around the world. Lee earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from Luther Rice Seminary in 2014.

Luther Rice is proud of all its graduates and the work they do around the world. Many of them



for Ministry

serve in full-time or part-time ministry. Our graduates minister to people in war-torn areas of the Middle East, anti-Christian countries in Europe, impoverished areas of the United States, strife-ridden countries like Nigeria, and all around the globe. They are spreading the good news of God's love and His plan of salvation through Jesus Christ for all mankind. Of the over 7,500 Luther Rice graduates to date, the majority of them are in some type of ministry work, either vocationally or as a volunteer. That outreach is being expanded daily as students obey God and reach out to their neighbors.

As we celebrate the graduating class of 2015, we would also like to congratulate our

own faculty member Dr. Thomas Mapes for earning his Doctor of Philosophy in English from Georgia State University this spring. His dissertation was titled "Literatures of Stress: Thermodynamic Physics and the Poetry and Prose of Gerard Manley Hopkins." Mapes is an Assistant Professor of English at Luther Rice and the General Education Coordinator for the undergraduate program.

Again, we offer congratulations to all our graduates. Now, having achieved this significant milestone in their lives, they will spread out across the world to fulfill the Great Commission and share the love of God.



New Luther Rice Logo Story



The shield emblem represents the shield of Faith, our protection, a solid and firm foundation.

Ephesians 6:16 • Proverbs 30:5

The open book emblem represents academics that are grounded in the Word of God, an uncompromising commitment to the Bible.

John 17:17

The white field in the shield represents the purity of salvation in Christ, the inerrancy of Scripture, and the fields white for harvest.

Isaiah 1:18 • 2 Timothy 3:1 • John 4:35

The name: College & Seminary represents the institution's historical veracity and trustworthiness in Higher Education.

Bachelor of Arts in Religion Degree Program Prepares Students for *Life*

Luther Rice is a Christian college and seminary founded in 1962 to provide convenient, affordable, sound biblical training. While it has provided undergraduate degree programs since its beginning, Luther Rice has been more well known for its masters and doctorate programs throughout the years. Today, a full 33% of students are in the undergraduate program. It offers a balanced curriculum of general education foundations, biblical and theological studies, and ministry applications.

There is one undergraduate degree: the Bachelor of Arts in Religion with a major in Biblical Studies. However, within that degree program, there are three minors to choose from: Ministry, Biblical Counseling, and Christian Worldview. Dr. Mark Owens, the Bachelor Program Coordinator, oversees the degree program. Courses and full degrees are available via 100% online studies (no residency required) or through traditional campus-based classes in Metro Atlanta.

The Bachelor of Arts in Religion with a Ministry minor is designed to prepare students to serve in local churches or through other types of Christian work and ministry.

The Bachelor of Arts in Religion with Biblical Counseling minor is designed to introduce students to the essentials of biblical counseling. While the program is not designed to prepare one for professional state licensure, students will be equipped to serve as a biblical counselor in the local church, on the mission field, or in biblical

counseling centers, among other places.

The Bachelor of Arts in Religion with a Christian Worldview minor is designed to prepare students to serve in local churches or through other types of Christian work and ministry, with a special focus on interpreting culture, apologetics, and advancing the Christian faith.

“Here students are challenged and equipped to be that godly tool, yielded in the Master’s hand. Students are continually encouraged and supported to grow spiritually and academically through their religious studies. That’s our promise,” states Evan Posey, Acting Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs.



Evan Posey

Luther Rice provides the tools needed for students to shape their future, realize their dreams, and to mature spiritually. The personal, family atmosphere that surrounds Luther Rice creates an appealing, warm environment for students, faculty, and staff—both on campus and online. In fact, over 96% of graduates report satisfaction with their academic experience and the accessibility of faculty.

We work hard everyday to provide the highest quality education possible. Students are our driving focus. If you know of anyone that may be considering attending a Christian college, we trust you will tell them about Luther Rice College & Seminary.

Voodoo Priest's Family Accepts Christ as Personal Savior

Editor's note: Dr. Suresh Thomas is an adjunct faculty member at Luther Rice, and is reaching the world with the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. He relayed this story to Luther Rice recently about a family he witnessed to in Georgia.



Dr. Suresh Thomas

share the gospel of salvation with the family.

The lady's father, who was a voodoo priest (and yet held some Catholic beliefs), passed away the previous month from cancer. But before he passed, he had asked his wife to impart his divination spirit upon their daughter or her husband, who wasn't a believer in anything. She began doing the charms and voodoo practices to make his spirit possess her daughter's husband. The

One Friday, while I was the pastor-on-call, I received a call from one of our small group leaders, asking for guidance as to how to pray for a family from Haiti who had been in bondage to Voodoo for many years. The lady of the Haitian home had become a Christian recently and attended this small group. She was requesting prayer for her family. As soon as I heard the story, I immediately knew that God wanted me to go pray with the small group. God also impressed on me to

son-in-law began having nightmares about his wife's mother trying to choke him, which terrified him. He wanted his mother-in-law out of his home. That's when his wife called her small group leader to request prayer for him and her voodoo-practicing, Catholic mother.

That Sunday, I, along with the small group leader and three others, went to talk with and pray for this family. I took the time to share extensively about the distinction between historical Catholicism and Christianity, highlighting the person of Jesus Christ as the only and exclusive means to the grace of God, available to us for salvation.

After about two hours of questions, answers, and sharing, we prayed and I asked if any of them would like to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior. The husband as well as their 18-year-old son asked Christ to forgive them of their sins and to be their Savior. We had a powerful time of intercession and prayer.

We praise God for this great testimony of His power in the world, a world that is in desperate need of a Savior.



Alumnus Authors New Book on Biblical Inspiration

Luther Rice alumnus Charles A. Crane has authored numerous scholarly papers, published books on a variety of subjects, and written multiple articles for religious publications. His newest book, “The Bible: The True and Reliable Word of God,” is a great introduction to the Bible and its inspiration.

Crane spent about 50 years researching approximately 3,000 of the most ancient biblical texts for this book. While written so the average Christian can understand the information clearly, the book still includes material valuable to the serious Bible scholar.

Crane has been heavily involved in the work of the church most of his life—over 50 years. A native of Oregon, Crane began preaching regularly when he was 19 and got ordained following graduation from college in 1962. For 28 years, he served as a preaching minister until he became president of Boise Bible College in 1990. During his tenure at Boise, the college built a new administration building, library, classrooms, chapel, and dormitory. Crane retired as president of the college in 2007 and is currently serving as chancellor.

Crane has taught college and seminary courses in theology, church administration, psychology, textual criticism, and practical ministries. He has strong interests in church planting and world missions and has been a guest lecturer to missionaries in Germany, France, Zimbabwe, and India. He has traveled extensively in Africa, Europe, Asia Minor, and the Middle East, as well as in India, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and South America. He has led leadership training clinics for indigenous church leaders in Africa and India.

“May God continue to bless Luther Rice Seminary, which has been a marvelous help in my ministry



Charles A. Crane

and in the revival that is going on in Idaho and the Northwest,” states Crane.

Crane served three terms on the board of directors of the North American Christian Convention and served on two different college boards for a total of twelve years. He was a trustee for six years of the Navajo Christian mission, where he served as chairman of the board for two years. He served as a director of the Intermountain Christian Convention and as president for one year. Crane currently serves as the Associate Minister of Evangelism at Eagle Christian Church, a congregation of over 5,000 members in Eagle, Idaho.



Eagle Christian Church

Crane enjoys teaching, preaching, and ministering to members of the church. His hobbies and interests include traveling, writing, collecting coins, antique fountain pens, rebuilding old vehicles, and being a private pilot. He has written numerous books, appeared in one movie and on nationwide television for two years, and has been featured in a number of educational videos. Crane and his wife Margaret have three children and thirteen grandchildren.

Congratulations, Dr. Crane, for your many years of service to God, and may you have many more.

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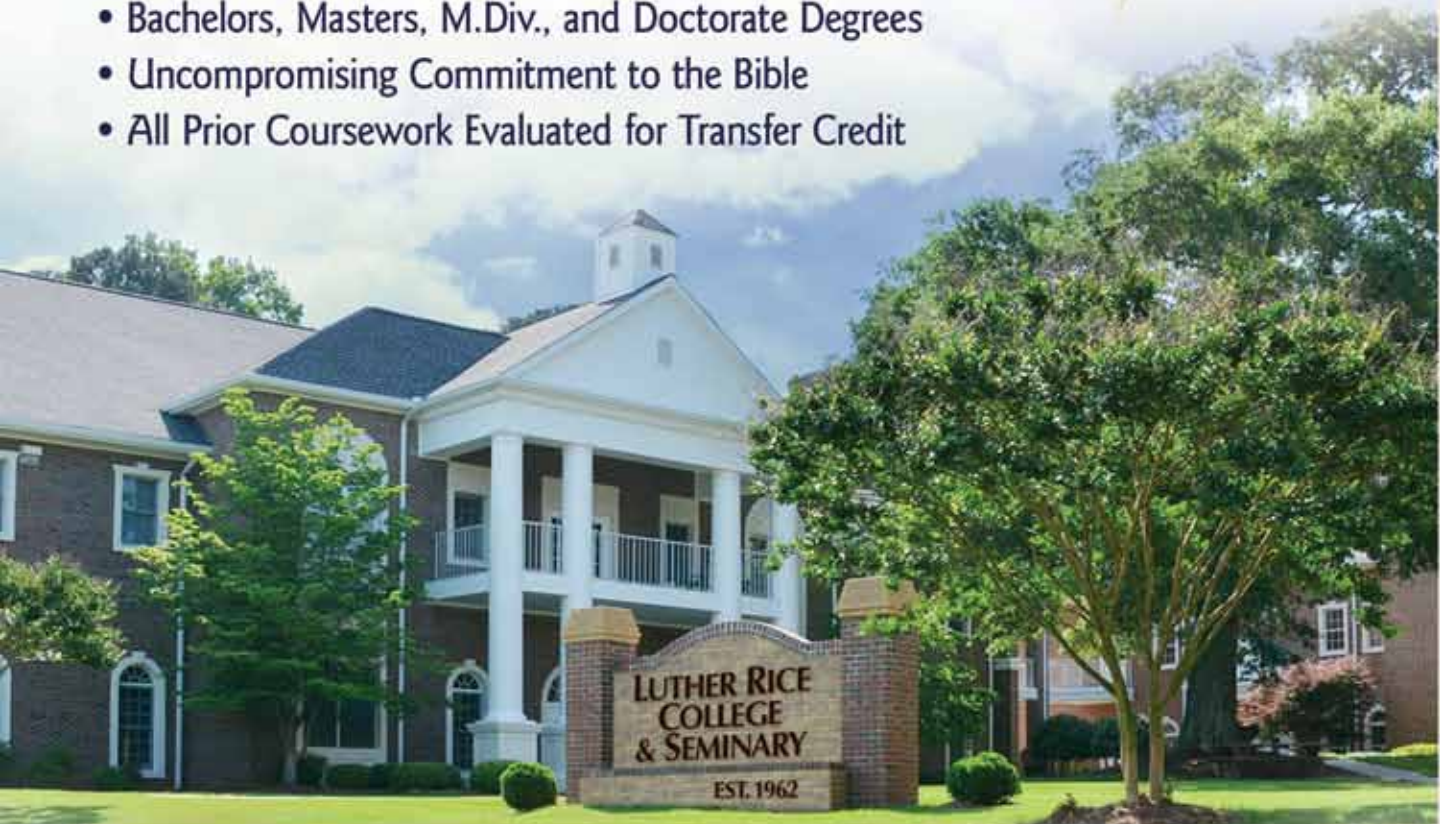
Luther Rice is accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) and the Association of Biblical Higher Education (ABHE).

Luther Rice admits students of any race, religion, gender, age, color, national or ethnic origin, or disability, except where required by specific religious tenets held by the institution.

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